



AGRICULTURAL.

An Essay by a Lady Granger.

The following essay was read by Mrs. M. B. Chadlock, before Pleasant Dale Grange, Illinois, on the anniversary of the order.

"Brothers and sisters, we are here to-day to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the order of the Patrons of Husbandry, and when I look over this assembly, there is one thing that pleases me more than all the rest—that there are more sisters than brothers present."

I like to see the women interested in this movement, for this order has done, is doing, and will do more, for the enfranchisement of women that all other forces combined, to elevate the sisterhood and educate them."

It has been the custom in all ages of the world for men to meet together and take counsel, and from these meetings women have been excluded. We have obeyed the Scriptural injunction, to learn of our husbands. But all that has changed. We now go to the Grange meetings and learn for ourselves. A new era has dawned on our lives."

Sisters, let us move onward. We must think, we must read—not novels and comic almanacs, but good, solid reading, that will be of practical use to us in raising our families and living our own lives. Every woman should make herself familiar with the laws of light and heat, the properties of the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. We know that plants grow away from the sun, wither and die. But do we know why this is so? We must learn to ventilate our sleeping rooms, and not breathe over and over again the noxious gases that come from our lungs. We must learn how to purify our cellars, by the use of lime and other disinfectants, so that the seeds of disease and death may not be planted in our midst. We must learn to prepare the food for our tables, so that the life-supporting principles be not destroyed; and we must learn to clothe our bodies so that the circulation may be equalized."

Sisters, we must learn to look upon mind as of more importance than matter; we must spend more time in aesthetic culture, and less in ruffling our dresses—our dresses will fade and wear out, but the impressions made upon our minds are there for all eternity. We have been taught that every woman has a soul. We must learn that woman is a soul, a spirit, having a body to accomplish a certain mission on earth, and that this body should be at the command of the soul, not the slave of anything."

The social element is the one great feature of this movement. We are placed in this world to help and cheer each other. The battle of life to some is mere pastime, and to others everything comes by the hardest; to such let us lend a helping hand, and, what is sometimes better, speak a cheering word. Our weekly meetings together, should be social visits—to see our neighbors and friends; to have a chance to exchange quilt pieces, dress patterns and newspapers; to laugh and talk, and have a good time generally, with no cooking to do, and no dishes to wash. I tell you sisters, 'tis a sign of the good time coming, when the rattle of the dish pan and the banging shall be heard no more from afar."

Brothers and sisters, we must learn to be charitable; we must learn to be just. Let us be true men and women; true to ourselves true to each other and true to the world. During the time the Roman empire was at its height kings abdicated their thrones in order to become Roman citizens, for to be a Roman citizen was accounted a greater honor than to be a king. Such let our renown be, that men in high places will be glad to resign their salaries for the sake of being Patrons. Let us be above party corruption and individual jealousy, and the time will come when to be a Patron of Husbandry will be the highest honor of an American citizen."

Wintering Fowls.

The season is now approaching when the proper treatment of spring fowls, during the winter season, is an important question for the consideration of the brooder, and to this end we suggest the following as embodying the result of long and successful experience:

It may be set down as a well settled point that they should be well kept and protected from the storms of winter, but this does not imply that they should be constantly housed up and pampered with heated grain. Like all other young and growing animals, they

require an abundance of fresh air and exercise, and should have free opportunity of indulging in the gambols, and frolics, and races to which their nature prompts them, and which is so essential in order to properly distend the lungs, swell the veins, invigorate the entire system, and make a hardy, healthy, active fowl.

Give muscle and bone forming food in abundance, but feed corn sparingly, and, if at all, only in the coldest weather. Oats and wheat, bran and grass, and hay in abundance, will make the colt grow; and exercise, with protection from severe storms, will keep him healthy. If it is indispensable that he should run out and take all the storms as they come, which, by the way, should never be permitted, give more corn with the feed, as that produces fat, which is a protection from the cold.

We were to be compelled to choose between the two extremes of close confinement, with high feeding on heating grain, and no exercise, and the other of running at large in the fields, exposed to the merciless storms of winter, with free access to the corn crib, we should unhesitatingly take the latter course as likely to develop the harder, healthier, stouter fowl, because we regard the opportunity for abundant exercise as absolutely essential to a healthy, harmonious development in all young animals. But generous feeding and secure housing from inclement weather are not incompatible with plenty of exercise, and such a course of treatment will bring the youngsters through the winter in perfect health, with constitution unimpaired, and growth unchecked.—*Western Rural.*

The Crops and Prices.

Except the corn and meat crops the year's harvest has generally been gathered, and we have an approximately correct idea of the result, and the corn crop can now be estimated with a good degree of accuracy. Taken as a whole the results of a years work in the West and Northwest must be regarded as very fairly satisfactory. Taking into full account the losses by rains, by grasshoppers and untimely frosts, losses which bear heavily on certain localities, it still remains true that the aggregate yields of the great staples will be large, and what is equally important, at least fair prices are promised.

The hog crop is light. Prices are high. While we believe it is good policy to send the hogs to market so soon as they are in the best condition, it seems a mistake to forward so large numbers of inferior and half fattened hogs. Thus far choice hogs have been in good demand. Corn is worth a good price, but it will pay to feed it until the hogs are in really good condition for the market.

The cattle market seems in a singular condition. The receipts at Chicago are very large, which is not surprising, but the larger part of the cattle sent forward are of poor quality. These sell at low prices; so low that it would seem no profit can be afforded. With good grass in many localities, abundant corn, fodder, and many localities soft corn which must be fed this fall, it would seem advisable for farmers to purchase some of these stock cattle which are selling at low prices. We expect good although probable not high prices for all good beefs, after this glut of pork stock is worked off.

Prices for grain still fluctuate somewhat. It is impossible to predict with certainty their future, but by those who do not expect to hold their crops until next spring, the probable effect of the closing of water transportation and the usual advance in freight rates is worth thinking about. One year with another, we believe the farmer who sells his crops comparatively early, realizes fully as much as he who practices the holding policy, and we see no reason for advising the general holding back of any crops now.

We have no wishes to paint rose-colored pictures of prosperity which does not exist, but, while misfortunes and failures have come to individuals and to some localities, it certainly is true that the West as a whole has reason to be thankful for general fair crops and fair prices.—*Western Rural.*

Improve Corn Crib.

Our common Russian rat burrows in the ground, and never makes a nest in the corn crib, though he has no objection to going into it for his meals; but he also likes to have his burrow under some rubbish, buildings, or similar protection, where the dogs cannot reach him; but, in this crib, which is on posts two and a half or three feet from the ground, there is no place for him to burrow, as the rat would be exposed to the spade or dogs, and the result is that he never burrows in any such open places. The cribs may be eight feet wide, and of any length. On the farms the cribs are thirty-two feet long, and with posts ten feet high,

though twelve feet would have been better. The outside is of stock boards, battened with fencing plain and split, making the battens three inches wide. The space between the cribs are twelve feet wide, with floor overhead, with a trap door in the center for shoveling up through. The inside of the cribs have common fencing put on horizontally, with spare spaces for airing the corn on the inside, and the bottom floor is of three inch strips, placed an inch and a half apart to allow the air to pass up through the corn, and to prevent molding. On the inside it is boarded below the crib in order to exclude pigs and poultry from entering the space between the cribs, and sliding doors are used. The crib is thus waterproof on the outside, and yet by opening the door a free circulation of air is obtained, as well as the upward ventilation up through the bottom of the slab-work. Any corn that is shelled off in the crib passed down through these slats to the ground, and yet it is under cover, and is good food for the poultry and pigs, if the latter are permitted to visit the premises. If the cribs are near the ground, the rats will burrow under them, filling the space with loose earth from their burrows, and thus enfold the chickens. In fact, rats and chickens are antagonistic, as the rats will eat both chickens and chickens' food; and if you cannot get after the rats with a spade, the dog will not do it.

Such a crib will hold over 3,000 bushels in the ear, and 1,000 bushels of grain on the floor above. Then it gives a room 12 by 32 feet for wagons or farm implements. A shed on one side for the poultry, and on the other for implements, will be useful and may be cheaply constructed. The Industrial University has a crib something on this plan, but the floor is too near the ground, and I find this to be too often a defect.—*Rural, in Chicago Tribune.*

Primitive Plowing.

A Mexican correspondent of the Louisville Courier-Journal writes: "On our way back to Tenasco we had an opportunity of observing, more closely than diligence or railroad can permit, the process of plowing as commonly practiced in this country. The plow itself is almost a fac-simile of the pattern used by the Egyptians in the time of Abraham, and certainly commends itself to all agriculturists on account of its great simplicity and cheapness. It consists of a wooden shaft about four feet long and four inches thick, armed at its lower extremity with an iron point, slightly flattened and sometimes presenting a feeble forward curve. The other end is provided with a round stick passed through a hole to serve as a handle. The pole, consisting of the stem of a small tree from which the bark has been peeled, is fifteen feet long, and attached to the shaft by means of mortise and peg. The implement thus constituted is fastened at the extremity of the pole to the middle of a very light wooden yoke, about seven feet long, which rests immediately behind the horns of a pair of oxen, and is fastened there by throngs of rawhide passed around the horns. Not less than fifty such contrivances were crawling at a snail's pace over the field which we stopped to notice, scatching up the ground to the depth of two or three inches, certainly to us a very novel sight."

Protect the Strawberry Beds.

It being beyond the power of the horticulturist, in most cases, to protect the orchard from the hard freezing of winter, and thus protect the fruit buds, it stands the lover of fruit in hand to protect the small varieties as far as possible. The strawberry is one of the most desirable of fruits, and should be found on the table of every farmer, and can just as well be, for it is almost a certain crop with proper care. Cover the bed with a thin coating of light mulch, such as rotten straw, which has become dry, then cover with marsh hay or clean straw. A light coat is better than to risk too much, as the vines may be smothered by the heavy coat.

After the danger of frost is over in the spring rake of the coarser material leaving the finer as a mulch during the growing season. Great damage is often done about the time the berries ripen, by drouth, and it is of as much importance to protect the plants from this as from the freezing weather of winter. If the mulch is put on in the fall, it will prevent the ground from being beaten down, and put in a condition to break when the frost is going out in the spring.

There is nothing on so small a piece of ground that will pay better for the time required upon it, and the only wonder is that farmers do not more generally avail themselves of the advantages of a small patch of strawberries.—*Western Rural.*

Trite Truths.

I know a farmer who bought a lumber wagon now almost thirty years ago, and to-day it is nearly as good as new. It has been in constant use, but always kept under shelter when not behind his team in the field or on the road. A neighbor of his bought one at the same time and made at the same shop, but in consequence of always leaving it out of doors it went to ruin years ago, and now he has bought a new wagon for the third time. This is a fact, and the men are living to-day, one a successful farmer, with plenty of money to use and to loan, the other an example of the worst effects of the opposite system. This one instance alone is sufficient to "point a moral." It should teach a lesson to every man engaged in the pursuit of agriculture. To be constantly buying farm-tools is more than a farmer can afford. Implements are expensive, and they should be made to last by being cared for. Every farmer should have a tool-house, and when a tool is not in use it should stand or hang in its place. A careful inventory of such tools occasionally would do much toward keeping them in their place and in good repair. Industry, economy and system will be of as much service to farmers as to any other class.—*Cor. N. Y. Tribune.*

Maxims for Farmers.

It is worth while for all farmers, everywhere, to remember that thorough culture is better than three mortgages on their farms.

That good fences always pay better than lawsuits with neighbors.

That hay is a great deal cheaper made in summer than purchased in winter.

That more stock perishes from famine than founder.

That a horse who lays his ears back and looks lightning when any one approaches him is vicious. Don't buy him.

That scurrying the feed of fattening hogs is a waste of grain.

That over-fed fowls won't lay eggs.

That educating children properly is money lent at one hundred per cent.

That one evening spent at home in study is more profitable than ten lounging around country taverns.

That cows should always be milked regular and clean.

That it is the duty of every man to take a good, reliable, entertaining paper, and pay for it promptly.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

CATSKILL APPLE PUDDING.—One pint sweet milk, four eggs beaten to a froth, one teaspoon of soda, a little salt, flour enough to make a stiff batter, four large apples chopped; stir well; bake in deep tin; serve hot, with butter and sugar.

SUNDERLAND PUDDING.—One cup of milk, one egg, one and a half cups flour. Stir well together, bake in cups about twenty minutes, and serve with sweet sauce.

FROM LEITCHFIELD.

LEITCHFIELD, KY., Nov. 15.

Our two weeks' term of Circuit court being concluded, the officers of same, especially the attorneys and clerks, congratulate themselves on the flattering prospects of a happy "little quiet."

It is unfortunate for Grayson as well as for several other counties in the 5th District, that the terms of court are too short for the disposition of the litigated cases. And this fact necessitates the immediate creation of an auxiliary court of some kind, for pleas must be heard. But what character of court will best serve the interests and demands of the people, is a question well worth the consideration of our people at an early day; for the legislature of the State will soon convene, and it is probable that the first business of importance before that body, will be the discussion of this question, resulting in the establishment of a court coincident with the wishes and choice of the district. Then let the people begin to signify their choice between a Common Pleas and a Criminal court. For my part, I have long entertained and still entertain the opinion that the Civil and Criminal dockets should be separated, or in other words, we should have a court of exclusive criminal jurisdiction, in every judicial District in the Commonwealth; and in my next, I shall take pleasure in presenting my reasons for preference for this over Common Pleas. I hope, however, that in the meantime, I may see communications in your paper and others upon this subject.

Grayson has elected four candidates for Frankfort for a term of two years each, against strong opposition and the earnest protest of every elect. Three colored and one white man. Two colored, upon charge of burglary upon Caneyville depot, the others for larceny.

Judge Stuart left for your city, carrying with him the warmest feelings of attachment upon the part of our whole Bar, and they hope that for fifty years to come, his shadow may grow no less.

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